

# KASHMERE GARDENS **COMPLETE COMMUNITIES**

## Working Action Plan



Complete  
Communities  
Kashmere  
Gardens

Mayor Sylvester Turner  
City of Houston  
Planning and Development Department  
December 4, 2019



## 12.4.19 DRAFT ACTION PLAN

***Goal: The result or achievement toward which effort is directed; aim; end.***

Actions: (Projects, Programs, or Policies) Steps to take to reach the goal

### **ECONOMY AND JOBS**

#### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

##### ***\*\*Attract a grocery store***

- Develop incentives, such as tax breaks or other strategies, to attract a grocery store to the neighborhood with healthy food and affordable prices, centrally located and outside of flood risk areas

##### ***\*\*Expand retail, restaurant, entertainment, and shopping destinations in the neighborhood***

- Develop incentives to attract new businesses to major corridors, such as Lockwood Drive and Liberty Road, including retail spaces, pharmacy, restaurants, entertainment, bank, coffee shop and internet café

##### ***\*Expand workforce development opportunities***

- Expand access to job-training programs, including technical, vocational and career development (i.e. welding, pipe fitting, construction, etc.)
- Encourage area businesses to hire local and be active partners in community change

##### ***\*Promote and grow the local economy and opportunities for entrepreneurs***

- Develop a small business resource and technology center to provide workshops, technical assistance, and other support programs for area small business owners and entrepreneurs, potentially located at Kashmere Multi-Service Center
- Create a business incubator, accelerator, or co-op space to support local businesses and expand entrepreneurship
- Support area businesses through the development of a local business network, marketing and communications strategy
- Develop and maintain an inventory of vacant stores and undeveloped land
- Improve cellular and internet connectivity in the area

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Capital Idea – offer training, programs, funding problems, skills (Capital Idea – TMO)
- SER Jobs for Progress
- Hire Houston Youth

## **HEALTH**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*Expand access to fresh, healthy foods***

- Create a network of food programs and community-based organizations such as schools and churches, to expand the capacity, outreach, coordination, communication, and partnerships among organizations growing and distributing fresh food, including farms, community gardens, and farmers markets (Urban Harvest, Target Hunger, Houston FoodBank, Kashmere Multi-Service Center, BakerRipley)
- Provide cooking, nutrition and healthy eating classes and programs
- Host open enrollment days for food stamps at area schools, library, or multi-service center

#### ***\*Improve access to health services***

- Incentivize the development of healthcare facilities near LBJ Hospital, a “Wellness District”, to provide access to urgent care facilities, clinics, doctors, optometrists, dentists, and mental health resources, including counseling for those with mental illness or victims of abuse
- Provide health fairs and wellness events to address health disparities, partner with Legacy Clinic, Baylor, and other area providers
- Expand the programs and hours of health and wellness services at Kashmere Multi-Service Center and distribute information of events to the community in multiple forms

#### ***Create a Clean and Healthy Environment***

- Address soil contamination near Liberty Road
- Develop a partnership to monitor air quality adjacent to area industries, such as concrete batch plants, to ensure a health environment

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Urban Harvest Farmers Market and affiliate garden at Dogan Elementary School
- Kashmere Multi-Service Center Community Garden
- BakerRipley
  - Adopt a garden program - Baker Ripley
  - Senior programs at Kashmere MSC include: a noon-time meal, fitness classes, health education, arts and crafts, volunteer opportunities, and other educational presentations.
- Target Hunger
- Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network (DAWN) at Third Ward Multi-Service Center
- Houston Food Bank - Food Prescription Program
- Harris County – Healthy Living Matters
- Air Alliance
- Baylor College of Medicine, Teen Health Clinics at LBJ Hospital and Cavalcade
- Harris Health, Odom Center

## **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP and ADVOCACY**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*Increase civic leadership and engagement***

- Provide leadership training to area civic leaders
- Provide youth mentorship and leadership training to increase youth engagement in the community
- Organize and host community events and activities, such as National Night Out, bike rides, annual picnics and holiday gatherings, to bring people together of all age groups and cultures

#### ***\*Improve communication within the community and with the city and other partners***

- Develop community networks (databases) and communication strategies, including flyers at area gathering places, social media, and text notifications, to keep all constituents informed of meetings, events, and programs, including those at Kashmere Multi-Service Center and other local facilities
- Develop an outreach campaign and community directory to ensure all residents, no matter of language or ability, are aware of how to access city services and all of the assistance and educational programs available in the community, including food programs, after school, job training, health, etc.

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Boys and Girls Club of Houston, Kashmere Gardens (also meets at Kashmere MSC)
- Hope House Houston, provides an after school program at the Kashmere MSC and also hosts Boy Scout Troop 51
- My Brother's Keeper (currently programs in Acres Home and Gulfton, includes Y-ABC youth leadership program)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- National Black United Front
- NAACP
- Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- BakerRipley
- National Night Out
- Bike Houston
- Block Captains
- Travis Manion Foundation

## **FLOODING AND RESILIENCE**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*\*Reduce flooding***

- Improve drainage and reduce flooding risks across the neighborhood
  - Improve area drainage on Cavalcade Street, Collingsworth Street, Rand Street, Lockwood Drive, Hirsch Road, Homestead Road, Reid Street, Pickfair Street, Crane Street, and Pardee Street
- Develop and implement an outreach program to encourage area residents to report drainage systems that need maintenance and repair, both City of Houston and Harris County systems
- Continue to advocate for Hunting Bayou improvements to help mitigate flooding, including railroad bridge projects
- Promote green infrastructure tools to improve water quality and flooding

#### ***Increase community emergency awareness, preparedness, and resilience***

- Develop a local evacuation plan and storm preparation program that addresses the needs of all age groups, languages, and abilities
- Create local CERT Teams (Community Emergency Response Teams)
- Develop and implement an outreach campaign to encourage residents to sign up for available emergency flood warning alert systems, the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR), and other emergency preparedness systems and alerts
- Explore the potential of a program similar to “Evacuspots” from New Orleans, including identifying locations and funding mechanisms.

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security
  - CERT Training
  - Evacuation Planning
- Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Flood Warning System
- Harris County Office of Emergency Management
- Recovery Resources:
  - The Restoration Team
    - SBP
    - All Hands and Hearts
    - Habitat for Humanity
    - West Street Recovery
    - North East Houston Response
- Transtar, Road Conditions

## **SAFETY**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*Improve lighting in area parks, trails, bus stops, and streets***

- Work in partnership with CenterPoint, Houston Parks Board, METRO, and the City of Houston to improve street lighting across the neighborhood, specifically along Hunting Bayou Trails and Jensen Drive
- Develop a partnership with CenterPoint to improve responsiveness to reported street light outages and ensure all residents know how to report a street light outage

#### ***Address area crime and safety concerns, including the challenges of drug activities and prostitution***

- Increase police patrol, security and visibility, including bike patrol
- Address crime hot spots in the neighborhood, particularly drug activities, prostitution, and loitering in areas such as Crane Street, Lockwood Drive, Rand Street, and Cavalcade Street

#### ***Enhance partnerships with law enforcement***

- Encourage residents and police officers to participate in engagement programs such as the Positive Interaction Program (PIP), and inform residents of future events
- Develop and implement a youth safety outreach program, to bring together area youth and law enforcement agencies, to address youth concerns regarding crime and violence (Greater Houston Police Activities League)

#### ***Increase animal care services***

- Expand BARC's programs and services to address animal welfare across the neighborhood, including stray dogs and cats, and livestock
- Provide free or low-cost spay and neuter clinics and veterinary care in the neighborhood

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- HPD
- Citizens Police Academy
- HPD'S Positive Interaction Program (PIP)
- HPD's Volunteers Initiative Program (VIP)
- Explorers Program for Youth
- Greater Houston Police Activities League (GHPAL)
- Hire Houston Youth
- BARC
- Harris County Sheriff's Office, Precinct 1

## HOUSING

### *DRAFT Goals and Actions*

#### ***\*\* Expand programs to repair aging housing and housing damaged by Harvey***

- Improve transparency and communication between FEMA, City of Houston, non-profit housing organizations, and residents that were affected by flooding disasters to provide accurate information about housing programs available, timelines for getting assistance, who qualifies, and the limits of repair assistance
- Provide a program to fund the elevation of homes in flood risk areas
- Demolish or repair dilapidated homes, including homes affected by flood events, target areas are Crane, Brewster, Linn, and Lavender Streets
- Develop a home repair program for seniors and other vulnerable households, and connect residents to existing home repair programs
- Create a home repair loan pool

#### ***\*\*Support and encourage new housing development***

- Develop new affordable multi-family housing
- Develop supportive housing for those struggling with homelessness, mental illness or other disabilities
- Coordinate new housing investment with the City of Houston's Housing Plan, the Community Land Trust, and the Houston Land Bank program
- Develop a resilient housing strategy for areas within the 100-year floodplain
- Develop creative housing designs by partnering with local housing organizations and designers

#### ***Prevent displacement of existing residents and grow area homeownership***

- Develop a program to assist current homeowners with tax exemptions, wills, inheritance, and other needs to provide financial security
- Expand access to resources and supports for renters, veterans, and vulnerable populations, including pathways to homeownership, rental assistance, and second chance housing opportunities

#### ***Expand local capacity to address housing needs***

- Create and support a local community development corporation

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- City of Houston Housing and Community Development
- Houston Land Bank
- Houston Community Land Trust
- Local churches
- NE Houston Response
- All Hands and Hearts
- Hester House
- Target Hunger
- Department of Neighborhoods, Wills Clinic
- New Hope Housing



## **NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*\*Create a beautiful community***

- Address illegal dumping in hotspot areas such as Liberty Road (along train track), Majestic Street, Lockwood Drive, Crane Street, Pardee Street, Cavalcade, Lavender Street, Bennington Street, and 610 (along Hunting Bayou); Install security cameras at needed locations, and surveil areas where dumping is concentrated
- Partner with Centerpoint to ensure area trees along utility lines are trimmed
- Organize and implement community cleanups through partnerships with churches, civic organizations, schools, and others; build on existing programs such as Trash Bash!, Keep Houston Beautiful's Adopt-a-Block, and Back to School clean up events
- Create a partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods to address overgrown vacant lots and dangerous buildings, particularly in hotspot areas such as Crane Street
- Develop a partnership with Trees for Houston to plant and maintain trees along neighborhood highways

#### ***Gateways and Streetscaping***

- Improve streetscaping across the neighborhood with a focus on Lockwood Drive, Cavalcade Street, Bennington Street, Crane Street, and area esplanades
- Designate gateways with signage at major thoroughfares such as Lockwood Drive and Cavalcade Street, add and maintain lighting and landscaping at these nodes

#### ***Preserve and celebrate the neighborhood's history and culture through public art and events***

- Develop an "Arts in the Gardens" program to design and install public art at area parks and public spaces that celebrates the neighborhood's history and culture
- Provide arts and cultural programming for people of all ages at the Kashmere Multi-Service Center or other community spaces, this would include art classes such as painting, quilting, and drawing, and cultural events such as movie or music nights
- Identify and re-develop vacant structures/properties into art and cultural spaces

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Centerpoint
- Trash Bash!
- Department of Neighborhoods
- Trees for Houston
- Travis Manion Foundation
- Keep Houston Beautiful, Adopt-A-Block
- TSU
- UH School of Art
- Shape Community Center
- Harris Country Department of Education
- HISD
- Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (MOCA)
- Houston Arts Alliance

## **MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*\*Improve and expand area sidewalks and accessibility***

- Complete the neighborhood sidewalk network, focus on areas adjacent to schools, parks, bus stops, and underpasses
- Improve existing sidewalks, and add new sidewalks and pedestrian amenities on streets such as Lockwood Drive, Collingsworth Street, Bennington Street, Crane Street, Kelley Street, Lavender Street, Russell Street, Homestead Road, and Rand Street
- Improve accessibility of area sidewalks for seniors and people with disabilities with a critical focus on Lockwood Drive and other major neighborhood connectors
- Add new pedestrian crosswalks at key intersections such as Kelley Street and Lockwood Drive, McGee Street and Lockwood Drive, and Russell Street and Cavalcade Street

#### ***\*\*Improve public transit***

- Improve the frequency and reliability of bus service, especially on Lockwood Drive, Cavalcade Street, and Jensen Drive
- Address the gap in transit service along Cavalcade Street from Hirsch to Homestead Road
- Develop light rail or bus rapid transit along Lockwood Drive
- Provide more options beyond METRO Lift inside the neighborhood, such as a METRO Community Connector service and door-to-door services to schools
- Improve amenities at area bus stops, including shelters, benches, and lighting
- Expand access to information regarding METRO services through multiple means of communication such as flyers at local community facilities and social media

#### ***\*Improve neighborhood streets***

- Repave streets in poor condition, including Lockwood Drive
- Identify and address speeding issues along Lockwood Drive, Hirsch Road, Reid Street, King Street, Crane Street, Bennington Street, Majestic Street, Cavalcade Street, and Pardee Street; Add speed bumps near schools

#### ***Expand bike lanes and trails***

- Create new bike routes along high bike-frequented streets such as Creston Drive, King Street, Reid Street, Caplin Street, Linder Street, and Melbourne Street
- Complete the hike and bike trails along Hunting Bayou and the tributary south of Hutcheson Park and connect to Lyndon B Johnson Hospital

#### ***Improve rail safety***

- Identify railroad crossings for improved quiet zones and grade separations

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Harris County Precinct One
- City of Houston Public Works
- Safe Routes to School
- METRO

## **PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***\*\*Maintain and improve area parks***

- Properly maintain area parks and perform monthly checks on lighting, equipment, and landscaping
- Partner with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to identify and prioritize new or improved amenities at area parks, including shade structures, exercise and playground equipment, additional trees
- Develop an outdoor performance space and classroom on vacant lots adjacent to Mickey Leland Memorial Park
- Create new neighborhood parks, in areas with high need such as the intersection between Lockwood Drive and Cavalcade Street and north of Mickey Leland Memorial Park between Hunting Bayou and 610

#### ***\*Repair or Rebuild the McCrane - Kashmere Gardens Neighborhood Library***

- Repair or rebuild the library (currently in the CIP)

#### ***\*\*Expand recreational and community amenities***

- Develop a recreational or community center in the neighborhood with a gym, swimming pool, and other amenities, similar to Finnigan Park Community Center

#### ***Expand existing sports and outdoor programs at area parks***

- Organize and implement additional sports and outdoor programs for children and youth at area parks, including baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and other sports and outdoor activities such as gardening, music, dancing, yoga, crafting

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Outdoor Crafting Classes (NEO)
- NEO
- Houston Parks Board
- Houston Parks and Recreation Department
- Chaperone Program (PTO)

## **EDUCATION**

### ***DRAFT Goals and Actions***

#### ***Support student success***

- Provide vocational training and STEAM (science, technology, arts, and math) programs in area schools
- Expand after school and summer enrichment programs, provide programs in the arts, technology, music, business, cooking, tutoring, college prep, financial literacy, and other life skills
- Expand HISD's "Every Community Every School" wraparound services program to all area schools, the program supports critical issues of students: mental and physical health needs, food insecurity, stable housing, violence, parent incarceration, and things that adversely affect college and career readiness or their ability to learn.
- Establish computer labs in all community schools
- Partner with area businesses and industries to fund school support and college scholarships for area students (for example, Union Pacific)

#### ***\*\*Increase lifelong learning***

- Expand adult education programs, including financial literacy, computer literacy, trade and vocational programs, GED and other courses
- Provide 24-hour day care services for parents seeking vocational training and educational programs in the neighborhood

#### ***\*Strengthen area schools***

- Strengthen partnerships between parents, teachers, administrators, area businesses, and community leaders to provide mutual support systems
- Create joint-use schools by opening area schools to community use during out of school hours

#### ***Partners and Programs***

- SER Jobs
- Café College and Project Grad
- Communities in Schools
- Hope House Houston
- Travis Manion Foundation
  - Mentoring
  - Veterans
  - In and After School programs
  - Service Projects
- HISD, Every Community Every School Wraparound Services Program
- Youth Character Development
- The Association for the People and the Community-APC Scholars After-School Program